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and Tennyson; and the stories derive from as many lands: Norway, Old England, India, Germany, Italy, Persia, Greece, and aboriginal America. The pre-Raphaelitish illustrations are weird, which is a popular word, at any rate. The book will make a tasteful gift, and is a welcome addition to the general library.

THE BEAUTIFUL MRS. MOULTON. By Nathaniel Stephenson. John Lane, London and New York.

Mr. Stephenson leaves the Civil War and gives us in "The Beautiful Mrs. Moulton" a novel of our own times. The scene is evidently in Chicago, though there are journeyings to Cincinnati and a small town in Iowa. The characters are clear-cut and the book compact and thoroughly modern. It holds the reader and gains on his heart so strongly that the real tragedy—the misunderstanding that darkens the life of strong John Moulton and the success of the paltry scoundrel against him—gives positive pain. The picture of the life in the little Iowa town is attractive and natural, and the sketch of old Pemberton Moulton proudly guarding alone the home of his race in Cincinnati is well done. Mr. Stephenson is a keen observer and shows broad sympathies, and for a young writer has few affectations and striking faults of style, though a minuteness of detail is somewhat tiresome.

THE LITTLE WHITE BIRD; or, Adventures in Kensington Gardens. By J. M. Barrie. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

What an appropriate setting of "living green" have the Messrs. Scribner given the little white bird, and how daintily and purely, albeit with characteristic fantasticalities, has Mr. Barrie told us the origin and adventures of David! David serves as an admirable excuse, but all the interest centers around the dear "single gentleman" whose heart of gold and keen insight make him the best godfather that ever "little nursery governess," "young painter," "baby boy," "inconsiderate waiter," or slum waif found in this world.

DONNA DIANA. By Richard Bagot. Longmans, Green & Co. New York.

Many, if not all, roads lead to Rome in the literary world just now, and "Donna Diana" drags out an often weary

length of four hundred and two pages mostly in that city. The book is not uninteresting, but offends in many ways against good taste: there is an unrefined suggestiveness largely pervading the volume, and the constant side hits at the Church of Rome—if we mistake not, the author's own Church—are neither well-placed nor strong in their own strength. The theme, on which hangs much tortuous intriguing, is slight: a young girl of great wealth consecrated by her uncle, a cardinal, to the life of a nun, is attracted from her "vocation" by a young Englishman whom she finally marries.

THE LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR. Edited by C. N. and A. M. Williamson. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

"The Lightning Conductor" is delightfully bright and, better still, "something new under the sun," although the types—the American girl, the old maid aunt, the American snob, the British *nouveau riche*, and the son and heir of a good English family—are familiar enough. The characters reveal themselves in letters, and their adventures are spiritedly narrated and readily accepted by the fascinated reader, though cool reason must admit their improbability. The dream country of Southern Europe and the islands, Sicily and Capri, viewed by the unconventional American girl and historically interpreted for her by the suspiciously learned and polished *chauffeur*, are brought before us in many new lights. Travel and history do not prevent the development of a love tale that finds a happy ending in a serio-comic situation perfectly in keeping with the style of the whole book.

BORROWED PLUMES. By Owen Seaman. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

Mr. Seaman's new book contains twenty-two sketches embodying exaggerated imitations of the style of about twenty-three authors. Where the skits are short and quick, and the imitated authors remarkable for special peculiarities, the work is very bright and funny, as in the case of Marie Corelli and Maeterlinck. Others, however, while verbally clever imitations of style, as those after Mrs. Humphry Ward and Henry James, are very long and without the real